

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

I. MID VALLEY SCHOOL-TO-WORK SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

- II. Award 1-916001387-A2
- III. Yakima County, Washington
- IV. Contact Person: Tamara Bosler, STW Program Manager
- V. Report Period: April 1, 2000 to June 30, 2000.
- VI. Current Work Plan Progress:

GREATER YAKIMA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce continues to work to strengthen community partnerships between area schools and Yakima County businesses. The local database is currently well over 600 businesses providing work-based learning for students and staff in fifteen (15) Yakima Valley school districts. The Chamber's project includes a Strategic Planning process focusing on workforce training and school-to-career activities for the entire geographical region of Yakima County.

The Chamber, through StW has a job-shadow placement person working out of the Chamber office, serving the upper valley school districts and also a placement person located in the Grandview School District, serving mid and lower valley school districts. That combination allows for efficient placement of several hundred students annually. A spread sheet report is forwarded each month to participating school districts and is presented for review at each monthly StW meeting. This 'One-Source-Contact' format is working well for all parties involved, e.g., businesses, schools, coordinators, WDC, and other agency partners.

The Chamber continues to make individual contacts with business leaders to encourage community input in the strategic planning process. The Business Education Partnership (BEP) is well-founded to the point that this project will entertain ways to replicate/market products and services associated with the BEP. Regional networks to share ideas, develop peer support, and to support continuous quality improvement are being explored.

Sustainability Grant monies are budgeted for temporary employees to accomplish these goals.

MT. ADAMS SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Mt. Adams School District hired an additional staff person to integrate School-to-Work concepts in the elementary building and the middle school in February 2000. This suggestion came in light of the fact that the rural element of the Mt. Adams School District brings with it lengthy travel from one site to another. This move will enable staff to more directly communicate on a regular basis about their best practice StW activities. The new school district Superintendent, Dr. Mary Hall, hired June 2000, has agreed to recommend to the school board that the district match the remaining Sustainability dollars to extend the position through the 2000/2001 school year.

Mt. Adams has worked with the Apprenticeship and College Orientation Planning Teams to coordinate and facilitate a program for freshmen and sophomore students. The purpose as a consortium was to provide higher education and labor a venue with younger students who have the time to focus on their Pathway emphasis during their high school years. As well, these students will have StW connection/discussion within the forum of a required Careers Class. Knowing about apprenticeship options and other post-secondary options will allow a student to register for classes appropriate to his/her interest. Plans are to include union representatives, two and four year college representatives, trade school personnel, and as many military branches as possible.

A share team has been formed from members of the Mt. Adams StW Advisory Committee (comprised of inter-disciplinary teachers). Meetings have been scheduled with other school districts within/outside the original consortium to exchange best practices in the StW arena. Discussion was initiated with the StW coordinator in regard to a creative way to select an employer/industry and ultimately generate a product for them to use when sponsoring job-shadows, internships, tours, and other StW related activities. The goal is to provide a 'workplace tool' to make those experiences educational and easier for the employer.

The district has created a menu of staff development options to assist teachers in integrating and utilizing StW principles. They include job-shadows, internships, conferences, share exchanges, inservice training options, and Tuesday Tours for Teachers. Incentives for staff to participate are always available. One such plan involved sponsoring five staff to attend the Academic/Vocational Integrated Curriculum Conference last March in San Francisco.

The district has established a Work-Based Learning class. The Special Education department is improving their school-based enterprise with a new time-clock for working students to track their time on the job. New and updated career resources have been purchased for the Career Center. Mini-Grant monies are being used for one grade level to visit work sites. The portfolio project is in hard copy to date with plans to do the disc and CD ROM formats with selected students as they are ready for the challenge.

YAKIMA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Yakima County Development Association has a newly hired liaison appointment for its connection with the Mid-Valley School-to-Work Sustainability program. They have designed a selection process for identifying the fourteen staff from the seven school districts to be involved in the twenty hours allowed for working directly with YCDA staff, Perry Technical Institute, and other designated business and community representatives to design and implement a basic skills and career orientation curricula as well as a skills certificate to be recognized by employers in Yakima County. This project is expanded to include three additional lower valley school districts over and above the four districts involved in last year's project. The entire experience will allow the fourteen selected teachers to also intern for no less than 30 hours each with local businesses to gain workplace knowledge, skills, and job requirements.

The project personnel met initially in the spring (May) to outline plans for the 14 summer internships. Currently YCDA is assembling a core group of local business representatives who will review and approve the basic skills standards, skills assessments, skills certificate, and pertinent training curriculums as completed by the YCDA and teaching staffs. This group will identify worker functional levels in reading, writing, math, teamwork, job safety, and the importance of workplace dependability.

When these materials are completed, the Yakima County Development Association will make available a written model for distribution to interested schools and industries for replication.

GRANGER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Granger School District continues to be our 'diamond in the rough' with the exuberance of the StW coordinator and the fine support from the school board, superintendent, and newly hired high school principal.

The program has become a vital part of the district and has grown rapidly with full support of the faculty, administrators, and school board. This district, in a matter of just a few months has in place a School-to-Work program being integrated at the middle school and high school levels. Career Pathways concepts are in place as a teaching tool for all high school students, fifth, sixth, and eighth grade students. Additional staff assignments as well as a district commitment which allowed a schedule to include three career classes at the high school and one career class with middle school students, shows tremendous progress toward the goal of an integrated StW system. The staff is talking and the high school and middle school principals have designed inservice discussion around StW concepts and curriculum integration techniques connecting StW and the Washington State Essential Academic Learning requirements (EALR's). StW curriculum integration materials have been selected by staff and purchased by each department at all levels. The District has picked up a full-time Diversified Occupations/Work-Based Learning teacher, a program which will generate vocational funds to finance staff salary and ultimately the sustainability of StW programs and concepts.

All high school staff have completed the Bridges Assessment, one of the assessment tools used in Granger with students (depending on grade level) and subsequently, have assigned themselves to a staff Pathway committee to begin discussion on aligning curriculum. New StW related materials have been reviewed with some purchases in the science and math curriculums. This task is a district identified goal. These committees are composed of at least one vocational teacher, and one teacher from each discipline, all with interest in the same Pathway. These teams will ultimately be assigned students during the high school registration process. As well, the high school is planning to incorporate an Advisory segment two or three days a week during next school year which will allow time for the Team Pathway teacher to team with a small group of students with similar Pathway interests for StW discussion and scheduling purposes.

The middle school StW coordinator/ math teacher has been instrumental in designing hands-on classroom activities for all fifth and sixth grade math classrooms. The staff in Granger is attending job shadows, internships, and conferences. Efforts are being made to increase interest for all district staff to participate in this menu of options and then provide a venue to share their insights with other staff and students.

The Granger StW coordinator is a vocationally certified teacher. Subsequently, an advisory team has been formed to consider all district StW/vocational decisions. As well, it has been determined that students in the three high school Career classes are eligible to receive vocational classification which brings to the Granger School District vocational monies to continue these classes for future sustainability as StW monies wane.

In addition to the curriculum integration materials being selected, career tours to valley industry, job shadows, and a Career Fair have been offered to junior and senior high students. These Career students are currently continuing work on their hardcopy portfolios. All students starting in the eighth grade have a portfolio underway and all have transferred that information onto a floppy disc. The StW program has provided a CD ROM burner and some of the advanced students at the high school are making design plans to create their interactive CD ROM Portfolios with the new equipment.

The high school curriculum will initiate a school-based business starting 9/1/00 to be called 'GRANGER GEAR' where four different departments will be responsible for producing, accounting, maintenance and marketing of GRANGER GEAR, e.g., shirts, hats, etc. The actual machine designed to do the graphic sewing will be the central component. Teaching staff is designing curriculum and class expectations. The principal initially suggested the idea and supports the project and StW efforts to the point that a second work-based learning class will be implemented next fall. A class has been designed where students will research, shop, develop various cultural menus, prepare and serve lunch in a 'Granger Bistro' setting for up to eight place-settings to start with and serve four days out of the week with special invitation extended on a weekly basis to administration, staff, students, Board members, and community volunteers, etc.

Everyone is talking StW in Granger.
Everyone is excited about the potential of these two Granger businesses.

WAPATO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wapato School District has created the whole package with their StW program. Not only do they have the original, designated StW coordinator for the district, but they are presently partially funding staff to represent the alternative school and the middle school with StW activities and integrated curriculum at both of those sites.

Wapato High School has a program that orients freshmen in their Skills Class with representatives from labor, technical schools, two year colleges, four-year colleges, and employment security. Each discusses opportunities/benefits for students. They participate in the consortium apprenticeship/college orientation presentations for younger students, too.

Wapato School District has participated in SHARE exchanging best practices with districts outside the consortium. Currently, they participate regularly in monthly consortium meetings where the venue provides for idea exchange between participants.

One of the projects underway is to connect with employers to create a helpful 'workplace tool' for them when students and/or staff visit for job shadows, internships, tours, etc.

Wapato continues to dedicate its in-service opportunities to StW activities and curriculum integration. Pathways Advisory began in February. That is a program where all teachers and students are divided by their Pathways (according to interest/aptitude inventory) to aid in class registration and making class selection more relevant. All StW decisions are made through a StW Committee (Dan Murray, Bob Johnson, Dana Lemeiux, Dan Wold, Clark Myers, and Kit Brown).

Wapato's Pace Alternative School is working with students to create work-based learning activities for students. Many students started internships in mid-February. The school district recently awarded \$10,000 to projects that were submitted by staff members to increase StW activities in Wapato School District. They include new equipment to enhance the video production business and the adoption of A+ Computer Certification for students. Also, monies were earmarked for a new Graphic Arts program that will work in conjunction with the Yakima Herald Republic newspaper. Wonderful work-connection opportunities.

Finally, computer stations are available to all students and teachers to access the internet and other sites as needed. The district is working to design an electronic WEB folio. More work involving the StW staff with privacy issues and interactive possibilities are currently being discussed with other entities who have knowledge and insight into the ramifications to consider. Everyone at Wapato is anxious to adopt the WEB folio concept for students.

TOPPENISH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Toppenish School District began the Sustainability Grant with new StW blood. Since Toppenish absorbed the original StW coordinator as part of the regular high school staff, the district decided to bring onboard a new hire to carry out the Sustainability work plan concepts. The original StW coordinator brings to the regular classroom all of the skills and industry lessons and contacts which enhance the integration of StW concepts not only in the classroom but with the department staff as well. The new coordinator's assignment actually got underway right after the new year started. This school year integration continued with a Career Exploration class and the emphasis on work skills during a semester in the U.S. History block. Toppenish is participating in the newly expanded apprenticeship and college orientation program for its freshmen and sophomore students, too. That expands the regular college and military presentations provided for the junior and senior students scheduled annually.

Toppenish always brings to the regular StW Staff meetings best practice ideas. For example, several teachers expressed interest in the SHARE Team concept. They are planning to incorporate the workplace curriculum 'tool' idea into the Tuesday Tour project and possibly involve more staff as they do the summer internships. Summer internships were expanded to include three staff from the Toppenish District.

A renewed interest in the elementary and middle schools comes with the new coordinator. With additional time to commit to the program, staff, and students, Toppenish elementary and middle school administration have met with her to explore fresh options with mini-grants and staff development and curriculum options identified earlier in the year. Three school-based businesses are underway in the district which are supplemented by StW mini-grants.

Job shadows are in full swing as well as a new Internship class which currently has eight students placed for the semester. A number of Career talks were scheduled, including a local radio station, the SunKings semi-pro basketball team members, and a local FBI agent. One high school senior was selected as a reporter for the SunKings games and received a game pass where he was responsible to write the game article for the SunKings weekly newspaper.

The coordinator continues to review creative mini-grant proposals, e.g., materials and visitations surrounding the expansion of the student portfolio project. Additional computer discs and CD's and student-accessible computer stations dedicated to that objective would streamline the process for more students during the semester timeframe. An upper class student with special interest and talent in computer applications has been recruited to train peers in the development of electronic portfolios.

Contacts have been made to several software experts to find the easiest way to integrate a hard copy portfolio into an interactive program. This is still in the research stage, but should present results for selected senior students as the new school year begins.

There are several computer stations available for students to explore the Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce Web Site which gives them options for Pathway connections to an

industry of interest to them for their work-based learning experience (job shadow). The goal is that all students (sixteen and older) would be responsible for using the Chamber site to set up their own job shadow experience and then report the outcome to their designated teacher and also share the experience with classmates.

YAKIMA VALLEY OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER

The Yakima Valley O.I.C. is focused on their computer lab project. Finding the best deal and finest computers for the money has been the task at hand. The equipment has been delivered. The new Wapato Community Center where this laboratory for Out-of-School youth is located opened in late December. The Community Center complements the Out-of-School youth program for the area and is essential as a training laboratory for StW and One Stop system partners. Training sessions on the use of the Jostens EXTRA Education Library computer materials was provided to staff by their consultants. The programs are available online or they can be installed locally on a single computer or LAN by way of CD ROM.

Training sessions will be hosted in the use of the laboratory's Internet capabilities to access local One Stop workforce investment system resources such as the Central Washington One Stop home page, state career development information and DOL career development products, as well as the Impresa project through our StW grant (Career Links.org) which is designed to present career information in a way interesting to young adults.. In addition, staff is making contact currently with other providers to Out-of-School youth to create a 'tool box' of curricula and associated materials for the Center and computer laboratory.

A schedule is being developed to implement a system for laboratory use by all One Stop partners in the four-district service area. The best method for using this laboratory, maintenance of the equipment, and security of the equipment is discussed day-to-day on an as needed basis to be flexible to student needs. Numerous activities occur at the Center from Senior Citizen luncheons on a regular basis to town meetings and presentations on a variety of subjects. The Yakima Valley Opportunities Industrialization Center promotes and disseminates StW information and best practices through the One Stop Web site as well as other venues connected with the Wapato Community Service Center.

IMPRESA

The Impresa liaison person, Laurel Dukehart, has been in contact with WDC StW personnel on a regular basis either by phone or e-mail response in formulating a design for our worksource information project for young adults. Initially discussions revolved around research and product development, youth employment and training information, and printed and web-based youth-palatable employment information. It was determined to cover the full-range of concepts from industry developments, on-the-job training options, benefits by occupation, emerging occupations, self-employment options, prevailing wages,

apprenticeships, military opportunities, computer skills, non-traditional employment, labor market and economic reports, occupation and training matrixes, area trends, and general occupational outlook information. The goal was to target all young adults, from those planning to attend college or trade schools to those wanting to get to the work place immediately. After considerable discussion it was decided to place project efforts into two arenas, i.e., the website format along with a printed two-color flyer/brochure advertising the Web Site.

At this point the Web design will include audio, still photography, some gimmicks like rollovers and animated text. Also many career links are included. The introduction page features six basic questions related to job/career selection for young adults, i.e., Will You Like It? Will You Fit In? Is This Job In Demand? Will Your Choice Help You Earn The Salary You Want? What Are Your Training Options? Are You A Good Candidate?

Each of these question sections includes a template hosting a number of "Ways To Find Out" that can be clicked on for additional, relevant information. An opening screen with audio introduction and bulleted text, a photo, and cartoon character leads to sub-pages with clickable links. Of course the real test is to keep the young adult at this site for as long as possible.

The local public television station has agreed to participate by providing professional voice-overs from text supplied by Impresa. That taping session occurred successfully just a few weeks ago. The website location has been certified with logo and name (Career Links .org).

We met in January and again in July at the Yakima WDC site where a prototype Web Site format was established. Components were presented and discussion concerning appropriate link sites such as the Labor and Industries site, apprenticeship sites, Chamber of Commerce site, etc. were identified. As well the Career Ladder concept was found to be an essential component of the site. That ladder would give a realistic but quick look at potential starting salary of jobs of interest with a long term visual as well.

At least three examples are planned where the young adult can see where they would be:

- a. a work and training strategy
- b. a work your way up strategy
- c. a no clear strategy

Most technical questions have been resolved. Proofing of the site prior to our projected start-up date in early September is underway as we match dubbed taping to animation, text, and artwork. We are excited about the potential of this project for young adults.

Look for us on the web @ CareerLinks.org.

